



WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

FACT SHEET

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

PR5000

Number 302
May 1999

218-219 MHz SERVICE

IMPORTANT NOTE: Until September 15, 1998, the 218-219 MHz Service was known as the Interactive Video and Data Service, or "IVDS". Many Commission documents still refer to the 218-219 MHz Service by its former name, and the term "IVDS" is still commonly used in reference to this service.

The name change was the result of a comprehensive examination of the licensing and use of frequencies in the 218-219 MHz band. As part of that examination, the Commission initiated a rule making proceeding that would significantly alter the licensing and service rules for the 218-219 MHz Service. The final rules may affect both current 218-219 MHz Service licensees, as well as those who plan to participate in future 218-219 MHz Service auctions. A copy of the *Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FCC 98-228) is available online at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Orders/1998/fcc98228.txt>.

WHAT IS THE 218-219 MHz SERVICE?

The 218-219 MHz Service is a point-to-multipoint, multipoint-to-point, short distance communication service. A licensee may transmit information, product and service offerings to its subscribers and receive interactive responses. Mobile operation is permitted. A 218-219 MHz channel is insufficient for the transmission of conventional full-motion video, nor may a licensee offer a common carrier service.

LICENSING AREAS AND CHANNELS

The applicable rules are in Title 47, Code of Federal Regulation, Part 95, Subpart F. The service is currently licensed by 734 service areas, including 306 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and 428 Rural Service Areas (RSAs). Each service area is allocated two channels: Channel A (218.0-218.5 MHz) and Channel B (218.5-219.0 MHz). Under the current rules, a license is authorized transmission on either Channel A or B on an exclusive basis in the service area, but both channels in the same service area may not be licensed to the same entity.

-over-

LICENSEE SELECTION

Mutually exclusive applications for initial 218-219 MHz service licenses are subject to auction.

CONSTRUCTION AND LICENSE ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

The 218-219 MHz service rules contain specific construction benchmark provisions that, if not met, cause the license to cancel automatically. There are also limitations on license assignment. Note: Both the construction and assignment rules are subject to change as part of the pending rule making proceeding.

CONSUMER ALERT

Members of the public may receive solicitations to invest in enterprises that hold or plan to bid on licenses in the 218-219 MHz Service. These may still be represented as "IVDS licenses". Entrepreneurs may attempt to use the 218-219 MHz Service licensing process to deceive and defraud unsuspecting investors through telemarketing, infomercials or other advertisements. Promotional material may promise unrealistic profits, and sales representatives may represent investment as the "chance of a lifetime". The promotional material may include actual copies of Commission releases, or quotes from Commission personnel, giving the false appearance of Commission approval or knowledge of the solicitation. The Commission does not endorse any individual investment proposal, nor does it provide a warranty with respect to the license being allocated. *Obtaining a license is not a guarantee of success in the marketplace.*

Information about deceptive telemarketing investment schemes is available from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), at (202) 326-2222, and from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), at (202) 942-7040. Complaints about specific deceptive telemarketing investment schemes should be directed to the National Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060, the FTC or the SEC.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For information on the 218-219 MHz Service rules, contact the Private Wireless Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-0680.

This Fact Sheet supersedes all previous 218-219 MHz Service/IVDS Fact Sheets.